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Sage. March 24th 1827
W. L. H.

My Inaugural Dissertation
on
Hepatitis a Disease of the Gall
For the degree of Doctor of Medicine
By Hugh Houston
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Hydrothorax.

Hydrothorax, as its etymology imports, is a putrid, natural, or morbid accumulation of a serous or watery fluid within the chest.

There is some variety in the forms of this particular species of dropsy, according as the fluid is effused into the cellular texture of the lungs themselves, constituting *anasarca pulmonalis*, into the pericardium, called *hydropericardium*, or into an adhesionous membrane, denominated *hydrothorax*, or as it floats loosely, in one or both of the cavities of the pleura or cavities of the thorax, and it also exists as a part of universal dropsy.

But since the symptoms are but little modified by these varieties, and they all point pretty nearly an identity of treatment, I shall not attempt at any discrimination, but merely give an outline of that form, in which the fluid floats in one or both of the cavities of the chest.

Having nothing preliminary to offer, I shall commence, making a few remarks on the pathology and cause of the disease.

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The true pathology of hydrothorax (as well as of dropsy in general) seems hitherto not to have been generally understood, and at the present day, very different views as to its true nature are held forth by different medical men.

While some are of opinion, that it is a disease of debility, originating in an exhausted and cachectic condition of the system others (rejecting entirely, these notions) tell us that we must look for the true and primary disease, in inflammation, or fermentation.

Having been taught (by some of my preceptors) (whose opinions I am now ready to suspect) that the disease is strictly of an inflammatory nature, originating in action, that the effusion of serum is only a termination of the inflammation, a mere effect, which has been mistaken for the cause producing it. I have adopted their name, (and I boast not with too much anxiety) hoping that they will lead to a practice more successful and better calculated to alleviate human sufferings.

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By Doct Joseph Wye, who has recently published his
researches into the pathology and treatment of dropsy.
The opinion of its inflammatory character is strongly in-
culcated, and his reasonings against the picture of pas-
sive dropsy, as far as I am acquainted with them, I
think, are pertinent and satisfactory.

The primary disease says he, is a puritic action in the
serous tissues, which is proved to be very closely allied in its
nature to inflammation, by its being governed by the
same laws, and attended by the same phenomena.

Blackall, says Doct Wye, is entitled to much credit
for his researches into the state of the urine in dropsy,
by which the particular diathesis of the system is
pointed out.

The true pathology of hydrothorax appears to be inflamma-
tion, or irritation, destroying the balance between the pulsant
and absorbent systems, and thereby occasioning an accumu-
lation of fluid in the chest, which is termed hydropothorax.
That this is the correct pathology of the disease appears

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to be proved by its several phenomena. &c. also, by post
mortem examinations.

Our health there is continually sinking from the parities
of the three. (as well as from those of the other cavities)
a fluid which serves to lubricate its surface, and is of
essential to the performance of its healthy functions, but
being removed pari passu, by the absorbents, there is no
postmortal accumulation, and all is flowing on as health,
but this due balance which naturally exists between these
~~systems~~^{inverts} systems being destroyed, there is discord
and disease, a postmortal collection of fluid, and its
consequences.

This balance between the exhalant and absorbent systems, may
be destroyed, it is said, by a postmortal increase of the
action of the exhalants, by a diminished power of the absorbents,
or by both of these causes combined, but I am taught to be-
lieve, that an increased action of the exhalants, is generally,
if not always, the cause of this loss of balance.

Hydrothorax, may be idiopathic or symptomatic; and proceed

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from a local or general cause. the nature of the inflammation being the same in both cases. It may at times be directed into an acute and chronic form. when it becomes symptomatic and arises from a local cause, it is generally chronic, as when it proceeds from a disease of the lungs or heart.

Notwithstanding the evolution producing indigestion, is idiopathic and independent of an organic disease of the lungs & heart etc. its remote causes may be either of a general or local kind and in the same which produce when applied in a different manner, or under different states of the system the other forms of inflammation. There is perhaps justly said by some writers that the most frequent source of indigestion is an interparietal use of solid spirits and its attendant such as measures of over exertion.

Indigestion particularly from the suppression of secretions vesicular, is not improperly a cause of indigestion: of this I am prepared to testify, having witnessed several cases of the kind.





Under 1. the lesion is as subjected a manner as the
cessary not for actual and possible. In symptoms of this
lesion are generally, invidious and obscure, and it advances
reluctantly, till it has attained a height beyond the reach of rem-
edial agents. In this we part man, I think, is afflicted the
unavoidable obstacles and fatal termination.

I usually, commence with a dose of purgative and effuse pain at the
pericardium, with subphrenic, which is much aggravated by any in-
termediate or unusual process. The complaint is at first of the
with eyes suffused and watery, but in the course of the disease
becomes pale and leucophlegmatic, with edema of the inferior
extremities.

When in the second stage of the disease is dry and green-
ish, but as the disease advances, becomes cold and flaccid.
The pulse in the commencement, is generally hard, quick, strong
and full, afterwards becoming small, frequent and irregular,
not bounding, loose and weak. In the progress of the disease
it, and particularly of the heart, part usage with symptoms
various.

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most, with the mouth open and expiring gas in the face and in
the chest are seen in this position and in consequence the lips
are swollen. During several hours and days afterwards, even after the
iron has been frequently administered, the stage of the disease.

The operation is at this stage very often attended with
then a cessation of water. Discharges about the mouth are
noticed by the patient as attendant on a sudden change of po-
sition. This is a very distressing symptom, but when present, there
is no reason to doubt as to the true character of the con-
plaint. (In connection with the use of the Microscope it is very great and
if sometimes the existence of decay of the heart, seen by ex-
amination the patient being in the erect posture, another method
of dissection opened to determine would usually preserve the seat
of inflammation.

Dr. Keane remarks, that the termination of the disease, as
soon as it is completed, is satisfactorily increased, as, however, rather to
the effect of the disease, than to the disease itself, so that the op-
eration, chiefly speaking, produces only, according to the true disease,
and thus acting do form a certain disturbance given to the lungs



the presence of water upon them. It is not uncommon
generally, however, to find them and always in some dis-
tance of one or two feet in the thick, which is somewhat confined
in the interior below of the lungs, sometimes in the pericardium,
may be in the pleural membrane, and sometimes, possibly, in some
in one or both of the cavities of the chest.

The quantity of water varies considerably, there being sometimes only
a few ounces, and at other times more, quarts. The lungs are found
compressed and reduced in size, according to the quantity of water, of
course. The fluid is generally of a yellowish color, and is perfectly
propagated analogous to serum.

The diagnosis of hydrothorax is sometimes very difficult, or impos-
sible. The most intelligent and experienced physician is liable to
be misapprehended, and is frequently unable to determine on the precise
nature of the disease. The diseases with which it is liable to be
confounded, are not many, but among them, aneurism of the
arteries of the heart, is distinguished from them, the pericardium
and allude diligently to the symptoms, and include a short in-
quiry into the whole history of the case.





forms of depersonalization, & even so, I have seen that even
if the condition is treated here & there, the outcome of the ap-
proach is uncertain. In many cases it will not even result in any
substantial change, but in a way which has changed in some cases
the subject's personality gradually increases until the adaptation
is so complete as to be independent of the accumulation of fluid.

It is not to be expected as yet given in regard to the nature
and pathology of the condition, it might be expected that it would be
in contact with the antipathetic form in its greatest extent
and is independent of the most important condition in the group
and shows the disease and in particular, a great deal of the same
independence it should be treated as far as is consistent with
the safety of the patient.

In the treatment of the disease under consideration, one should be
able to see in each case, and to recognize it as such, is equal to direct
telling, it removes suggestion, evidence in plain language, and states that
just equilibrium which is so often lost to health, proves the signs of the
and principal means of means of depression, the resulting accumulation, and so
moving the immediate cause, it also prepares the way for the reception of



remains is now the state of public employees at the same hour
with the financial condition of the nation in general, and it is
not an isolated statement. The power of labor is also used during
the whole state of the system to answer the same indication as
the preceding remedy. Emotions are sometimes employed with the
view of reducing the cause from responsibility of success, but they
are generally ineffective of local but ability.

Secondly, we prohibit in all degrees of the interest, and it is
said to be sufficient to keep themselves in a suitable state, by
which means, I have been taught, however, that they may be per-
sued with patience without injury, and in fact, with a suitable in-
terest. But I have, however, been, possibly, injured.

Thirdly, the principle of compensation to the laborer, I have the same
idea, and I have to the same, is my conviction. This remains not
against the principle of unionism or association, and I have, possibly, to
reduce the cause to a position of inferiority, after the general in-
formation that it has been sufficiently satisfied by the
existing remedy.

And, finally, the principle, that is, the condition, of a laborer, is not



the 1. Order, sufficiently large to answer all the small sized
injection, and supplies as soon as it is in the best discharge,
to shoulder the instrument. These remedies about the roots of the
finger, and a recent fracture of the bone, or a dislocation which has
settled, taken place, is, as to the side as well very sensitive.

In operation of the instrument, the hand is not
as another to position. But we are presently, with white teeth
to position it cannot be used with much freedom. But requires to
be employed with instrument not certain, as in those of the skin
which are not temperate. In such a situation in these cases is always
one or two incisions, though the patient may indicate a tendency
towards, and if it can be partly given, directed, the prescrip-
tion is, that the one hand be held steady, and the patient will
and so increase of the top of a wound, when the finger
is well settled in the position.

These cases are to be managed by the use of the hand, and the hand
and the hand, by the use of the hand, and the hand.

After the wound is made, have been somewhat, but the hand
to the finger, and the hand, and the hand, is to be used to the





This apparatus we are directed to keep the patient warm, sitting down
with barefoot in a damp room, or in a damp place. Thus, says I
I don't think absolutely necessary, since the action of the skin
and kidneys appears to be increased, and if it be well accom-
panied by the feelings of the patient to be kept moderately warm.
I think it advantageous, as I have known dentists acting on the
skin to prevent being so serviceable, and as exposure to cold, which
I believe to be an auxiliary cause of the disease, might increase
congestion and inflammation, by determining the fluids to
wards the internal parts.

The first, the dentists which I shall mention is the small
The which properly termed is decidedly one of the most laborious
effusions of the class, and appears to be, in very general use.
The patient is a laborer of P. dentists. It seems really, ac-
cording to some experiments and other remarks it is said to be much
improved by using it in combination with the second. The second
has, possibly, be carried to the extent of a constant system.
I add it is said occasionally in dentists and dentists.
The last article is the dentists. Now this we medicine perhaps in

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which is local, and not necessarily producing a derangement of
function. When the effects of this medicine are produced, they are
apt to induce for a number of days, profuse perspiration of
sweat, chilliness, and a copious flow of urine.

Another singularity, which attends the operation of Iodine,
is the influence which it exerts on the pulse. The pulse
has been much increased in slandiness, and very much lower
than by lying. In judging of its influence on the system
these circumstances should be recollected. If from the use
of this medicine, any unusual symptoms appear, it should
be immediately discontinued.

The iodine cathartic is said to be a very good remedy in
dropsy, and under certain circumstances. I never, however, give
it a trial in any disorder.

The use of Iodine proceeds from its power to loosen the
bowels, from the suppression of secreted evacuations, or to induce
the diarrhoea, discharging urine, &c. &c. and is said to be use-
ful; the various diseases it does, when proceeding from the
suppression of the aqueous secretions, the acute hydropic pains





quietest reliance to the doctrine, mentioned. I have noticed, I believe,
the feeding remedies in the treatment of dyspepsia. I shall have
few doubts myself, though I am aware that there are many
others that are employed, successfully, and should, by no means
be overlooked in practice. what I have said on the subject, will
no doubt, be sufficiently forcible to the reader.

I am sensible that I have digressed, and intruded my remarks
beyond the proper limits of my province, in entering into the
medical arguments of the glass remedies of which I have spoken,
but I hope, (with a degree of sangunity) that these lines will
fall into the hands of those who are not unwilling, to extend
leniency to the inexperienced, novice, and humble student.

I must have observed that what I have said on this subject, is
entirely borrowed or compiled, having had no experience. To some
you will be an original writing I have been compelled to make re-
tractions, which I fear I have done incorrectly. I should said
as I am of experience, I feel a hope that I have made some ad-
vancement towards acquiring a knowledge of the principles
of the science, if not it has been owing entirely to my own

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Allegory: the potentia fluit. The ample and unparallel'd advantages
disseminated and extended from the university of Pennsylvania, to the
student of medicine, can bear comparison to acknowledged, and not
withstanding the objections (friends and opponents) which are
urged against it, and the rivalry which is springing forth from
every quarter I am firmly persuaded, that it will remain unob-
scured and pre-~~eminent~~ ^{eminent}. The high population which it has attracted, sus-
tained, and ^{the} very distinguished talents with which it is at pres-
ent adorned, bid very fair to waite it far above all opposition
and support its preeminence.

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